GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1617
ANSWERED ON:04.05.2016
Efficiency of Meteorological Department
Sanjar Shri Alok

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a)whether the Government has taken any steps to increase the efficiency of meteorological department;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government for better coordination with the State Governments in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES
(SHRI Y. S. CHOWDARY)

(a-c) Yes Madam. Starting from the XI five year plan, Government has initiated a comprehensive upgradation of (i) observation systems (ii) advanced data assimilation tools (iii) advanced communication and IT infrastructure (iv) high performance computing systems and (v) intensive/sophisticated training of India Meteorological Department (IMD) personnel to facilitate the implementation of advanced prediction models for improving the accuracy of weather forecasts.

During the XIIth plan, the High Performance Computing (HPC) systems have been up-scaled to 1.2 petaflops so far to support the ongoing efforts on modelling. Operational implementation of improved suite of prediction models has enhanced the weather forecasting capability through assimilation of all available global satellite radiance data for the production of forecast products at 22km grid globally and 9km/3km grid over India/regional/mega city domains.

Further, under the National Monsoon Mission initiative, the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad and National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), NOIDA have embarked upon to build a state-of-the-art coupled ocean atmospheric model for a) improved prediction of monsoon rainfall on extended range to seasonal time scale (16 days to one season) and b) improved prediction of temperature, rainfall and extreme weather events on short to medium range time scale (up to 15 days) so that forecast skill gets quantitatively improved further for operational services of IMD.

Forecasts, early warning of severe weather events and advisories are issued by IMD at national, regional and state levels. In order to provide early warning of severe weather events, IMD has setup a network of state meteorological centres to have better coordination with the state and district level agencies.

Fully organized protocol exists between IMD, Central Water Commission (CWC) and with the various designated disaster management authorities at centre and state levels for dissemination of weather forecast warning alerts. Such existing dissemination protocol is always duly complied with. All available Print and Visual media dissemination mechanism are employed for expanded outreach of severe weather events and advisories related information.

Further, augmentation of the observing system networks for the upgradation of IMD is a continuing process that shall be taken up as per the emerging needs from time to time.